



CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
*Promoting Environmental Health in Connecticut Since 1954*

February 19, 2014

Raised Bill 66: An Act Concerning Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces

Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is David Boone. I am the Legislative Chairman of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association and Director of Health for the Town of Glastonbury.

The Connecticut Environmental Health Association (CEHA) is a membership organization composed of a variety of environmental and public health professionals, but primarily consisting of local health department sanitarians.

**CEHA supports Raised Bill 66.**

CEHA strongly supports *Raised Bill No. 66: An Act Concerning Outdoor Wood Furnaces* ("OWFs"). Over the years, CEHA has been concerned not only with the potential adverse health outcomes posed by exposure to OWF emissions, but the nuisance characteristics of OWF use, which often impact not only neighbors, but neighborhoods. Our current OWF regulation, CGS 22a-174k, has served well in that provisions regarding separating distances to neighboring residences, stack heights, and acceptable fuels have tended to mitigate the adverse impacts of OWF use on neighbors, and thereby reduced the number of complaints needing to be investigated and acted on by local health departments.

The current safeguards contained in 22a-174k will sunset when EPA establishes regulations covering emissions from OWF's. The EPA regulation will only cover emission standards, and not address some of the protections in our current law. CEHA feels that maintaining minimum separating distances, specifying stack heights, and requiring the burning of clean fuels would provide needed levels of protection to Connecticut citizens living near newly installed OWF's.

RB 66 would restore these essential tools to both State and local agencies. Please act to maintain these important protections for our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of our opinion.

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